15.40 Data Governance v022620

Institutional data, defined generally as the university's information resources and administrative records in any form, including but not limited to print, electronic, or audio-visual, is a valuable university asset, which must be managed in accordance with sound data governance principles to ensure its security, confidentiality, integrity, accessibility, availability, and quality. Federal and state laws also require restricted access to certain types of institutional data, to protect the privacy of employees, students, subjects, affiliates and patients. In addition to these technological management and compliance aspects, effective data governance enables NMSU to harness strategically its institutional data to advance its teaching, research and service missions.

A. Data Governance Program: The administration shall establish and maintain a system-wide Data Governance Program. A comprehensive data governance program helps to safeguard data appropriately according to its risk sensitivity, demonstrate compliance with regulations, but more importantly will enable NMSU’s executive management, faculty and staff to make data driven decision making based on data that is reliable and of good quality. The fulfillment of which will be robust university structures that:

1. Establish appropriate responsibility for the management of university data;
2. Improve ease of access, interpretation and consistency of university data;
3. Improve the security, confidentiality and protection of university data; and
4. Improve the integrity of the data, resulting in great accuracy, timeliness and quality of information for decision-making.

B. Data Governance Rules, Procedures and Standard Operating Protocols: The Regents of New Mexico State University authorize the NMSU administration to adopt and enforce rules and procedures to regulate the classification, access, use and management of the university’s institutional data and to implement the policy set out above. Such rules must be consistent with this policy, as well as federal and state laws and regulations relating to data privacy and security.